

In the Claims:

1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said preformed mass having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about its an outermost periphery of the preformed mass and a lubricious surface on at least one end.

13. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges are arranged in a parallel orientation relative to one another and wherein such ridges each define a plane that is substantially perpendicular to a central axis extending through said plug.

14. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges comprise a continuous helix that spirals about a central axis extending through said plug.

15. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges are discontinuous and are situated at discrete portions of said plug.

16. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a cylindrical shape.

17. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a polyhedral shape.

18. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein the cross-section of the distal end of said mass differs from the cross-section of the proximal end of said mass.

19. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 15, wherein said mass has a frusto-conical shape.

20. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a barb shaped cross-section.

21. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a rib shaped cross-section.
22. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug has a bore formed therein.
23. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 22, wherein bore has ridges formed on its interior surface.
24. (Currently Amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said preformed mass having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about ~~its~~ an outermost periphery of the preformed mass and a lubricious surface on at least one end, wherein said plug is formed of laminated materials, said materials having different hardness's.
25. (Currently Amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said preformed mass having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about ~~its~~ an outermost periphery of the preformed mass and a lubricious surface on at least one end, wherein said plug has porous surfaces.